

September * Scans & Corrections

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Scans: [aliasonyms](#) Translation: [fencer_x](#)

Cleaning: [fencer_x](#) Typesetting: [fencer_x](#)

初

恋

When Hime met his hero...

一樹らい

Kazuki Rai

Chapter 4



SIT WHEREVER
YOU LIKE.

I'VE GOT
SOME LEFT-
OVER CUBBY
FROM YESTERDAY. DO
YOU WANT
SOME?

HMMMM?

IT'S
PRETTY TASTY!

OH—
SURE.

DO YOU NEED
TO CALL THEM
OR ANYTHING?
WOULDN'T THEY
WORRY ABOUT
YOU...?

HMM?

ARE YOUR
PARENTS
STRICT?

OH, YEAH.
I'LL CALL
THEM—

SORRY
FOR THE
INTRUSION.

SHOT



Well, it would've
been weird if I'd
turned him down...

It's not like it's
a strange thing for
a friend to ask, right?
Having someone spend
the night...?



What the hell
am I supposed to
do...? And why
did I just agree
to here willingly?!



YOU'D
NEVER
BEEN
HE USED
TO LIVE
IN THE
LAP OF
LUXURY.

THIS PLACE
IS CRAZY...





MY MOM MET
HER WITH THE
CAR... AND SHE
DIED.

SHE DIED,
SHORTLY AFTER
WE STARTED
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

HE-HEHE.



THEY USED
ME AS A
REPLACEMENT
FOR MOMO.

...
WAS
THAT
BECAUSE
OF...

YUP.



REMEMBER
HOW
I SAID...

...THAT MY FAMILY
SITUATION WAS
DRESSING LIKE A
OLD, WHEN I WAS
LITTLE...?



MY MOM WAS
TAKING ME TO THE
HOSPITAL. I HAD THE
SAME HEART DISEASE
MY DAD DID. GEE.

IT WAS
STORMING
REALLY
BADLY
THAT DAY.



MOM HAD DISHED
OUT, WANTING TO
COME WITH ME...
AND MOM HADN'T
NOTICED HER.

SHE WAS BLOWING
OUT OF THE GARAGE,
WHEN THERE WAS
THIS LOUD THUMP.



MINGLING WITH
THE SOUND OF
THE THUNDER
CRASHING IN
THE DISTANCE

THE SOUND OF
MY MOM'S VOICE
SCREAMING HER
NAME, SOUNDED
SO FAR AWAY

MY RELATIVES
THOUGHT
IT'D LOOK
BAD, SO
THEY DE-
CIDED NOT
TO COMBAT
HER TO A
HOSPITAL.



ISAM TOOK TO WAITING
AROUND IT
NIGHT, EVEN
GETTING PICKED
UP BY THE HO-
SICE A FEW
TIMES...

BY NOW
ALWAYS
DOTTED ON
MOMO

IF YOU SHO'D
JUST GIVE UP
ON ME, WITH SOME
PART OF HER CON-
VINCED THAT I
WASN'T GOING
TO LIVE LONG.



"FROM
TODAY ON,
YOU'RE
GONNA
TO BE
MOMOT!"



TO-
STAY...

"LATER,
MOMOT..."





DON'T EVER
LEAVE BLANK
AGAIN, OKAY?

OK,
MOMMY

WOULD
HAVE YOU
BEEN? I'VE
BEEN WOR-
SE! ARE
ABOUT YOU!





AND I
STARTED TO
LIVE LIFE AS
KIMIKAWA
MOMO.

SO FROM
THAT MOMENT
ON, HIRAKAWA
ICHIRO DIED.



IS THAT
SO...?



YOUR MOM,
MOMO, BUT
EVEN MORE
SO YOUR
RELATIVES!

**DUDE,
THAT'S
FUCKED
UP!**



.....



I DIDN'T GO
TO SCHOOL,
AND I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS.

.....



WUPO
YOU GO
ALONG
WITH IT!

BACK THEN,
MY WHOLE
WORLD LAY
BEHIND THE
GARDEN
WALLS...

I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
YOUR RIGHT
AND WHAT
WASNT!



BUT...
MORE
THAN
THAT...



THAT ALONE
WAS MORE THAN
ENOUGH REASON
FOR ME TO LIVE
AS MONO...



MY HEART FINALLY
STARTED BEATING
AT ME... AND SMILING.



AND THAT
WAS WHEN...



BUT EVEN
SHELTERED
BEHIND WALLS,
I STARTED TO
REALIZE THINGS
AS I AGED.

I LONGED TO
SEE THE WORLD
OUTSIDE, AND I
DREAMED TO MEET
MY FATE.

MY HERO
SAID THAT
MY FATH WAS
"WEIRD"

HE TOOK
ME OUTSIDE
THE WALLS
AND TALKED
ME LOTS OF
THINGS...

MY HERO
APPEARED.

BUT THEN
HE TOLD ME
I WAS WEIRD
FOR LYING
AS NORMAL...

AND
CRASH-
PEARED.

SO I THOUGHT
MAYBE IF I GOT
STRONGER AND
BECAME AS COOL
AS MY HERO,

HE WANTED ME
BECAUSE I WAS
WEIRD...AND BE-
CAUSE I MYSELF
WAS "WEIRD".

AT FIRST, I
DIDN'T UNDER-
STAND, BUT
LATER ON, I
REALIZED.

TO FINALLY
BE ABLE TO
SEE HIM AGAIN.



OF COURSE
IT EXAGGERATED
MY MOON'S CON-
DITION, AND MY
RELATIVES CUT
OFF ALL CON-
TACT WITH ME

THOUGH I
REALIZE IT
WAS FOR THE
BEST NOW

BUT WHEN
I DO THAT,



MEET
GARY, HE'S
AMAZING...

SO I STOPPED
DRESSING LIKE A
GIRL, STARTED
RELIABLELY, WAS
SCARY, AND
FINALLY HAD
MYSELF CURED



I EVEN HAVE
FRIENDS STAY
THE NIGHT
SOMETIMES

THOUGH
THEY ALWAYS
COMPLAIN ABOUT
HOW I LIVE IN A
RABBIT HUTCH

WHY... DON'T
YOU LIVE
SOMEPLACE
NICER...?



MY MOON
STILL BEING
TREATED THERE

THERE'S A REALLY
NICE HOSPITAL IN
ITL, AND WE MAN-
AGED TO HAVE
A SECOND HOME
THERE, SO WE
MOVED THERE
WHEN I STARTED
MIDDLE SCHOOL



THAT WAS
A BIG RELIEF
AND GAVE ME
THE COURAGE
TO FINALLY
MOVE BACK
HERE

SHE'S GOTTEN
A LOT BETTER,
THOUGH, AND
EVEN MET A
NICE GUY AT
THE HOSPITAL.
SHE SOUNDS
LIKE SHE'S
READY TO RE-
MARRY HIM
NOW



I GUESS IT
WAS KIND OF
FOR GOOD
LUCK...



I PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
SEE MY GRAND
FATHER, RIGHT?

IF I LIVED
A LIFE OF
LUXURY,
DEPENDANT
ON MY FOLKS
LIKE I'VE
ALWAYS
DONE...

WELL,
I MEAN...



NO, JUST...

...I'M NOT
SURE, REALLY.
I JUST HAD THE
FEELING THAT
YOUR LISTEN TO
ME SERIOUSLY

AH, SORRY
WAS IT TOO
MUCH TO
HANDLE?

SO... THIS
WAS WHAT
YOU WANTED
TO TELL ME?

WHY WOULD
YOU TELL ME
THIS STORY?



HE'S AN
ABSOLUTE
DISAPPOINTING
ON YOU LIKE
THAT WITHOUT
SAYING ANY-
THING!

DON'T YOU
HATE HIM??

I MEAN...



I CAN
REALLY
FEEL LIKE
I'M ALIVE

I CAN INVITE
A FRIEND OVER
TO MY PLACE
AND EAT CURRY
WITH HIM

I CAN
BEAR
TOUGH
STRESS
TONG



BECAUSE OF MY
HEED, I'M ABLE TO
SMILE TODAY--HE
HIMAKURA ISHINO

OF COURSE
I DON'T
HATE HIM



I DON'T
REMEMBER
WHAT HE
LOOKED LIKE
OR THE
SOUND OF
HIS VOICE

BUT I DO
REMEMBER
HIS WORDS



"I'LL RESCUE
YOU FROM
THIS PLACE!"

"I'LL SHOW
YOU ALL
SORTS OF
OTHER
PLACES
IN THE
WORLD!"



YOU'RE
WRONG!

SOMETIMES
I IMAGINE THAT
HE WAS ACTUALLY
DOP IN DIS...

HE REALLY
DID KEEP HIS
PROMISE

HE'S JAILING

GLATTER

I RAN AWAY
FROM MYSELF
BECAUSE I'D
FALLEN IN
LOVE WITH
YOU!

ALL I
DID WAS
RUN AWAY!

DON'T
TURN ME
INTO SOME
GODLY
FIGURE!

THOSE
WORDS...

WHEN
I SAID
"YOU'RE
DISGUST-
ING"...





YOU ARE
MY HERO
AFTER ALL!

SO IT'S
YOU!



NOBODY
WAITING
WAIT WAIT!

I'M
LEAV-
ING.

NO!!!



CAUSE
I DON'T
WANT
IT MYSELF
SHUT
AWAY
OTHERS!

WHY DON'T
YOU TELL ME
SHUT AWAY?



YOU KNOW?

WANTED
ALL...?

I HAD A
FEELING,
AFTER YOU
GAVE ME
SMILES



I MEAN, THE
ME OF NOW...

DEAD-
POINTED?

...ISN'T THE
SUPER COOL
HERO YOU
REMEMBER,
RIGHT...?



PLUS...

WHY
NOT?

I NEVER
INTENDED
TO TELL
YOU.

I DIDN'T...
WANT YOU
TO BE DIS-
APPOINTED
IN ME...



IT'S AN ORIGIN
IDEAL. YOU GAVE
TO ME WHEN I CAME
IN NEARLY LOST IN
THE MURK









LIKE,
DINNA
BACK
MY
FIRST
LOVE?

RIGHT??
ANYONE
WOLLYVE
FALLEN
FOR YOU?

THOUGH I
WAS PRETTY
DARN CUTE
BACK THEN,
SO I CAN'T
BLAME YOU?

YEAH, I
FIGURED!
(HEH, YOU
GROOMED
ME THERE!

Oh, right...
we didn't really
interact much with
the neighbors!

ACTUALLY...

YOU
CAME
TO MY
PLACE?

THIRD
YEAR OF
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

BUT
YOU
WERE
GONE.

OH, YEAH—THAT'S
WHAT I HEARD
WHEN I WENT TO
YOUR PLACE. I
GUESS THEY GOT
YOU AND YOUR
SISTER MOVED
UP, HANDED?

WUT, HEE?
DIDNT YOU SAY
BEFORE THAT
YOUR FIRST
LOVE WAS GONE?

BUT I WAS TOO
SCARED TO FACE
WUT I'D DONE,
SO I JUST RAN
AWAY FROM IT.

I'VE ALWAYS
REGRETTED IT.

I KNEW I'D
HURT YOU.

Oh
right...
I WOUND
UP ONLY
THINKING
OF PRO-
TECTING
MYSELF
YET AGAIN.

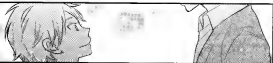
I WAS SCARED
OF BEING RE-
JECTED BY YOU,
OF DISAPPOINT-
ING YOU.

AND
REALIZING
WHO YOU
WAS...

AND THEN
EVEN AFTER
MEETING YOU
AGAIN.



The words
I wanted
to say to
Hime on
that rainy
day...



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET HOME, SO I JUST WANDERED AROUND ALL OVER AND GOT SCATTERED UP, AND THEN WHEN I FINALLY MADE IT HOME LATE THAT NIGHT, MY MOM WAS IN A RAGE AND WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME OUT INTO THE GARDEN FOR A WHILE I WAS UNDER HOUSE ARREST!

YOU SHOULD SEE I HAD A REALLY TROUGH TIME OF IT AFTER THAT!

UHM...



HERO...



YOU SAVED
MY LIFE!



THANK YOU
SO MUCH,
MY HERO.

FOR PLAYING WITH
ME BACK THEN.



We talked about middle school.

It felt like we were filling the blank space of five long years, and I was totally engrossed in talking to him.

About how he learned to cook for his mother.

About our favorite manga or video games.

All totally meaningless, pointless topics.







THUMP



This is supposed
to be the point
where we enjoy
our happy end-
ing, right??

HEART

HEART

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

POWER
DOWN

OFF

Well, unfor-
tunately...
It appears my
life is set to
HARD MODE.

To Be Continued